

## **PCAST Advancing Nutrition Science**

**Workshop Date: Friday November 3rd, 2023**

**Venue: Eisenhower Executive Building, Room 350**

**1650 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20006**

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### **Goal**

Convened relevant Government Agencies / Departments and key stakeholders from the private and academic sectors to identify scientific opportunities, gaps, and priorities to continue to advance nutrition science, with a particular emphasis on ensuring equitable access to the benefits of research. This event specifically provided an opportunity for PCAST Working Group members and stakeholders to discuss possible strategies and recommendations that PCAST could make to the President.

### **Format**

- For each session - roundtable discussions with 1-3 people briefly set the stage and a moderator steered the discussion.
- The audience members with related expertise moved to the front for a focused discussion that also engaged the full audience.
- This was an unclassified event. The whole session was private and held under Chatham House Rule.
- Attendees were encouraged to attend the entire day and were welcome to socialize before and after their session during the breaks.
- Attendees were provided an opportunity to circulate pre-read materials that they thought might inform the session.

### **Agenda**

#### **9:00 AM to 9:45 AM: Introduction**

Introduction to the task, summary of gaps identified and opportunities to strengthen nutrition research that PCAST has learned from agency consultations.

#### **Opening Remarks:**

- **Dr. Cathie Woteki**  
*Visiting Distinguished Institute Professor in the Biocomplexity Institute, University of Virginia & Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University*
- **Admiral Rachel L. Levine**  
*Assistant Secretary for Health, HHS*
- **Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young**  
*Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics & USDA Chief Scientist*

### **9:45 AM to 11:15 AM: Session 1: Equity challenges**

This session focused on key issues and challenges in developing equitable research programs, identifying the social and cultural factors that can affect program delivery, and reducing infrastructure barriers that prevent equitable access to the benefits of nutrition science.

#### **Session 1 Speakers:**

- [Dr. Jaapna Dhillon](#)  
*Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, University of Missouri – College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources*
- [Dr. Karyn Onyeneho](#)  
*Advisor for Genomic Data Sharing in the Division of Neuroscience at the National Institute on Aging*
- [Dr. Peko Tsuji](#)  
*Professor & Department Chair, Towson University- Department of Biological Sciences*
- [Dr. Angela Odoms-Young](#)  
*The Nancy Schlegel Meining Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition, Cornell University-Division of Nutritional Sciences*

### **11:15 AM to 11:30 AM: BREAK**

### **11:30 AM to 12:55 PM: Session 2: Health Care Providers & Practitioners**

This session included experts in the delivery of nutrition, dietetics, and health care for nutrition-related chronic diseases. They discussed gaps and opportunities in nutrition research and other insights from their experience that could strengthen nutrition research. The discussion especially focused on suggestions for research efforts that could improve outcomes for patients and clients and suggestions to ensure equitable access the benefits of federal nutrition efforts.

#### **Session 2 Speakers:**

- [Emily Broad Leib, JD](#)  
*Clinical Professor of Law, Director of Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation & Director for Food Law and Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School*
- [Dr. David Eisenberg](#)  
*Associate Professor of Department of Nutrition & Director for Culinary Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Teaching Kitchen Collaborative)*

### **12:55 PM to 1:55 PM: Lunch- On Your Own (Ike's Café- Downstairs)**

### **1:55 PM to 3:20 PM: Session 3: Food Producers, Processors & Retailers**

This session included representatives from food production, processing, and retail. They discussed gaps and opportunities in nutrition research and other insights from their experience that could strengthen federal nutrition efforts. The discussion especially focused on what data, information, and/or federal efforts could facilitate their work to provide better nutrition to consumers and improve equitable access to nutritious food.

### **Session 3 Speakers:**

- **Dr. Chris Cifelli**  
*Vice President of Nutrition Research, National Dairy Council*
- **[Dr. Janice Rueda](#)**  
*Vice President of Nutrition Science Business Development, Archer Daniels Midland*
- **[Dr. Kevin Miller](#)**  
*Deputy Director in Nutrition, The Gates Foundation*

**3:20 PM to 3.35 PM: BREAK**

### **3:35 PM to 5:00 PM Session 4: Ways to strengthen nutrition research & provide equitable access to its benefits**

This session engaged all the participants in pulling together the ideas developed throughout the day.

### **Session 4 Speakers:**

- **[Dr. Alison Brown](#)**  
*Program Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health*
- **[Dr. Angie Tagtow](#)**  
*Founder & Chief Strategist, Akta Strategies*
- **[Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian](#)**  
*Distinguished Professor, Dean Emeritus, Jean Mayer Professor, Director of Tufts Food & Medicine Institute, Tufts University*

**5:00 PM to 5:30 PM: Summary**

**5:30 PM: End of formal program**

**6:00 PM to 7:30 PM: Optional Informal Networking & Debrief, EEOB Room 350**

### **Working Group Members**

- **Cathie Woteki** (co-lead)  
*Visiting Distinguished Institute Professor in the Biocomplexity Institute, University of Virginia & Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University*
- **Frances Colón** (co-lead)  
*Senior Director, International Climate – Center for American Progress*
- **Sue Desmond-Hellmann** (PCAST member)  
*Former CEO - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*
- **Paula Hammond** (PCAST member)  
*Institute Professor, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and member of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

- **Dan Arvizu** (PCAST member)  
*Former, Chancellor, New Mexico State University, NREL Director, and NSB Chair*
- **Lisa Cooper** (PCAST member)  
*Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Equity in Health and Healthcare and Director of the Center for Health Equity, Johns Hopkins University*
- **Andrew Bremer** (Working group member external to PCAST)  
*Director, Office of Nutrition Research; Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives (replaced Christopher Lynch who was Acting Director)*
- **Pamela Starke-Reed** (Working group member external to PCAST)  
*Deputy Administrator, Nutrition, Food Safety and Product Quality/New Uses  
ARS Ethics & Scientific Integrity Officer*
- **Rachel Fisher** (Advisor to working group)  
*Acting Executive Director, President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition at the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion*
- **Nicholas Jury** (Advisor to working group)  
*Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy*